



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/510,646

11/24/2004

Yasuyuki Imaizumi

121381

3935

25944 7590 01/08/2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 320850

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

YAGER, JAMES C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4145

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/08/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/510,646	Applicant(s) IMAIZUMI, YASUYUKI	
	Examiner JAMES YAGER	Art Unit 4145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20060405 & 20050927</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds one paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

2. Claims 11 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities: Improper subject verb agreement, “are should be replaced with “is/are” and “have” should be replaced with “has/have”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1. The terms "flexible" and “harder” in claim 2 are relative terms which render the claim indefinite. The terms "flexible" and “harder” are not defined by the claim, the specification does

not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatayama et al. (JP 61-8544, see translation).

Regarding claim 1, Hatayama discloses a laminated tube having an outer layer (Fig. 3, 11b) laminated on a substrate layer (Fig. 3, 11a) that makes up the main body of said tube, wherein said outer layer has or consists of a projecting portion disposed in the axial direction (Fig 1 and Fig. 3, 22). The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition defines laminate as “to make by uniting several layers”. Because Hatayama discloses layers that are united (Fig. 3, 11a and 11b), the examiner’s position is that Hatayama discloses a laminated tube.

Regarding claims 3-5, 8 and 10-12, Hatayama discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Regarding claim 3, Hatayama further discloses a laminated tube wherein the projecting portion is linear (Fig. 1, 22). Regarding claim 4, Hatayama further discloses wherein a multiple number of projecting portions are disposed (Fig. 1, 22). Regarding claim 5, Hatayama

Art Unit: 4145

further discloses wherein a pair of projecting portions is disposed axissymmetrically in the cross-sectional view (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, The stamping rollers (18) form the projecting portions axissymmetrically in the cross-sectional view). Regarding claim 8, Hatayama further discloses wherein said outer layer having or consisting of projecting portions gives a graded effect caused by the change in thickness of the laminated outer layer (translation, para 10, because the colors of the base layer and the outer layer differ and the outer layer is translucent, the thickness variation in the outer layer generates complex changes in hues which can be seen through the outer layer.)

The examiner's position is that the changes in hues described above constitute a graded effect.

Regarding claim 10, Hatayama further discloses wherein the main body of said tube and the outer layer have different colors (see translation para 10, The colors of the base layer resin (11a) and the surface resin (11b) differ.) Regarding claim 11, Hatayama further discloses wherein said projecting portion or portions are spirally disposed (Fig. 3, 22). Regarding claim 12, Hatayama further discloses wherein said projecting portions have a wave form (Fig. 2, (C)).

Regarding claim 14, Hatayama discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Hatayama further discloses a molded tube product (translation para 4, hot-press molded) wherein said tube is cut to a given length , flattened and sealed at one end, and is provided with a head portion of a shoulder and a neck at the other end (Fig. 1).

7. Claims 1, 3-5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Redmond (2001/0030192).

Art Unit: 4145

Regarding claim 1, Redmond discloses a laminated tube having an outer layer laminated ([0009]) on a substrate layer that makes up the main body of said tube, wherein said outer layer has or consists of a projecting portion disposed in the axial direction (Fig. 8B).

Regarding claims 3-5, Redmond discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Regarding claim 3, Redmond further discloses a laminated tube wherein the projecting portion is linear (Fig. 8B). Regarding claim 4, Redmond further discloses wherein a multiple number of projecting portions are disposed (Fig. 8B). Regarding claim 5, Redmond further discloses wherein a pair of projecting portions is disposed axissymmetrically in the cross-sectional view (Fig. 8B).

Regarding claim 15, Redmond discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Redmond further discloses a molded tube product ([0021], formed by injection molding) comprising the laminated tube according to claim 1 ([0003], [0009], dispenser package made of laminated plastics and foils) wherein said tube is cut to a given length, flattened and sealed at both ends (Fig. 1A).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 4145

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. Claims 6-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatayama et al. (JP 61-8544).

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Hatayama discloses all of the claims limitations as set forth above, but the reference does not explicitly disclose the projecting portions having different widths nor an even number of projecting portions is disposed at equal intervals. Since the instant specification is silent to unexpected results, the widths of the projecting portions and the precise number and interval of disposition of the projecting portions are not considered to confer patentability to the claims. As the ornamentation of the tube is a variable that can be modified, among others, by adjusting said width of the projecting portions or by adjusting said number and disposition of the projecting portions, varying the widths or the number and disposition of the projecting portions would have been considered a result effective variable by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. As such, without showing unexpected results, the claimed variation of widths or number and disposition of the projecting portions or cannot be considered critical. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have optimized, by routine experimentation, the widths or number and disposition of the projecting portions in Hatayama to obtain the desired ornamentation (In re

Art Unit: 4145

Boesch, 617 F.2d. 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980)), since it has been held that where the general conditions of the claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. (In re Aller, 105 USPQ 223).

Regarding claim 13, Hatayama discloses all of the claims limitations as set forth above, but the reference does not explicitly disclose wherein each projecting portion has a different color. Hatayama does disclose that the substrate layer and the outer layer are different colors (translation, para 10). It is noted that, at the time of the invention, it was known that by using different colors, a desired aesthetic result is achieved. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tube wherein each projecting portion has a different color because there was a reasonable expectation that doing so would achieve the desired aesthetic value of the tube.

11. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatayama (JP 61-8544), as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Haefner et al. (US 3,940,001).

Regarding claim 2, Hatayama discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Hatayama does not disclose wherein said substrate layer is flexible while said outer layer is harder than said substrate layer.

Haefner discloses a laminated tube (C4/L44-50, Fig 4., container having laminated walls) having an outer layer laminated on a substrate layer that makes up the body of said tube wherein said substrate layer is flexible while said outer layer is harder than said substrate layer (C5/L40-45, C3/L35-37, thin, flexible, inner fluid-barrier lamina and a rigid outer load-bearing lamina). The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition defines tube as “A small flexible cylindrical container sealed at one end and having a screw cap on the other, for

Art Unit: 4145

pigments, toothpaste or other pastelike substances”. Because Haefner discloses a small flexible cylindrical container sealed at one end and having a screw cap on the other, for pigments, toothpaste or other pastelike substances (Fig. 4), the examiner’s position is that Haefner discloses a tube.

Haefner discloses that the container exhibits outstanding burst, impact, creep and tensile strength (C3/L40-42).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the flexible substrate and outer layer that is harder than said substrate layer of Haefner into the laminated tube of Hatayama to provide a tube that exhibits outstanding burst, impact, creep and tensile strength. In addition, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the flexible substrate and outer layer that is harder than said substrate layer of Haefner into the laminated tube of Hatayama with a reasonable expectation of success because the flexible substrate and outer layer that is harder than said substrate layer of Haefner was successfully used in an analogous invention.

12. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatayama (JP 61-8544), as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Kincaid (US 4,196,825).

Regarding claim 9, Hatayama discloses all of the claim limitations as set forth above. Hatayama does not disclose wherein the substrate layer is made of an aluminum-laminated material. Kincaid discloses laminated tube having an outer layer laminated on a substrate layer that makes up the body of said tube wherein the substrate layer is made of an aluminum-laminated material (C1/L60-65).

Art Unit: 4145

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the aluminum-laminated material substrate of Kincaid into the laminated tube of Hatayama with a reasonable expectation of success because the laminate disclosed by Kincaid was successfully used in an analogous invention. Doing so would amount to nothing more than a use of a known material for its intended use in a known environment to accomplish an entirely expected result.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES YAGER whose telephone number is (571)270-3880. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs, 7:30am-5pm, EST, Alt. Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Basia Ridley can be reached on 571 272-1453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 4145

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JY

/Basia Ridley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4145